



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association

Serving the Soccer Community since 1976



Written by: Jonny Joseph
Edited by: Alan Siegel

November 2024

Notes from the Board

We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and express our thanks to you and your families for your commitment, professionalism and dedication to the Beautiful Game in Southern California. In fact, Gabriel is so grateful that he is giving us all the weekend off over the long holiday weekend – ENJOY!

Some of us continue to have trouble with a few match situations and conditions which we plan to discuss at future membership meetings:

- 1) Cautioning players and coaches when send-offs are required. This mostly occurs with cases of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions which are clearly audible and/or visible to most everyone in the vicinity. This includes “you are only making calls against us because we are Hispanic/Black/White/Asian/Green/Blue/Purple” or whatever. This is an accusation of racism and/or discrimination and needs a red card!

Aside from incorrect application of the Laws of the Game, our customers (leagues) expect us to address these very bad behaviors when they occur. In addition, ALL RED CARDS require a supplemental report for all games that we do!

- 2) Field availability issues. There have been multiple cases of difficulty with AYSO games in progress at Columbia Park when we are scheduled to referee a subsequent game. While it is permissible to ask the referee team when they anticipate completing their games, as soon as it becomes apparent there will be a conflict with our games, we need to engage the home team’s administrator/team manager

We need to avoid getting into conflict with anyone else. ALWAYS, contact our assignor to inform him of the conflict so he can reach out to the league for assistance.

- 3) Calling fouls. Many of us watch high level games on television where we see referees allowing some very physical play. This is not the level of games that we are assigned to referee. Players, coaches and parents/spectators expect referees to protect the players. In particular the SBPSL players whose injuries take a lot longer to recover from, we need to CALL ALL THE FOULS!

Jersey Badges

Jersey badges – we have 4 alternatives:

- USSF Soccer
- USSF Futsal
- SBSRA
- CSL “5 Star Referee” (for CSL games only)

Please ensure you wear the correct one for each game. As a general rule, most youth games will require a USSF badge (current year or next year badges only) and most adult games (excluding South Bay Sports 11v11 and 7v7 which are USSF affiliated games) will require an SBSRA badge.



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League Rules

Please be reminded to visit each league's dedicated page on our website which can be found at <https://www.sbsra.org/competitions> before going out to the fields to officiate their games. If you have any questions about a league, please check the website before asking an assignor or anyone else.

A variety of problems on and off the pitch occur when members are not familiar with the rules of the league in which they officiate and are easily avoided with just a few minutes of research on our part.

In particular, South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) requests that we emphasize the following:

Check In:

- Before the match can begin, each team must provide a completed team sheet including the **full name of each player**
- Each player or team official must present you with their player ID when checking in individually. The player ID includes their team name, player name and photo – see examples here (https://sbsra.org/sbpsl_cards). Make sure that all IDs match their appearance, jersey number, team name and the match report.
- **NO ID = NO PLAY– There are No Player Check-in Exceptions. No guest players, no substituting driver's licenses for SBPSL ID cards, etc.** (other than on a limited basis, from time to time).
- Count the number of players, number of ID cards and names checked on the match reports to ensure consistency.
- Others (i.e., spectators) may not be in the bench/substitutes area.

Collect the game fees in cash only. No Venmo, Zelle, Bitcoin, etc.

During the Game:

- We need to strictly enforce the league's "no-bad-language" rule. Use basic sense, if the player mutters it under his breath, simply remind him to be careful not to say it any louder. If it can be heard 20 – 30 yards away, it likely deserves a caution (Yellow card) and if it is directed at anyone it deserves a Red Card.
- They want fouls to be called. Let's give them what they want unless it is a promising attack, close to goal, etc., when you might consider applying the Advantage provisions in the Powers and Duties of Law 5.

After the Game:

- When completing the match reports, please ensure you complete the section concerning field conditions - missing corner flags, issues with goals or nets, etc.
- Ensure all players'/managers' cards are returned, except for sent off players. The cards for sent off players/managers need to be mailed to the league.
- Take a scan of the match reports, which will be clearer than taking a picture. If you don't know how to scan, please ask a board member for help.
- The scanned match report must be emailed to John Moody (jmomoods@verizon.net) by Monday morning, **with the Member-at-Large (MAL) copied**, so he knows it has been sent. Always



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ensure the MAL is copied on your email or he will follow up with you to verify your report was sent.

- Any supplemental reports must be sent to the MAL and to the assignor, **not to the league**, as soon as possible and before the match reports are sent (**applies to all leagues**).

Also, please be reminded for all leagues:

- Supplemental reports for red cards, severe injuries, game terminations or any other significant events must be prepared and submitted **within 24 hours**, but hopefully on the same day as the game. Please remember to **use your LOTG book** to use the correct technical language and to text the applicable assignor and MAL immediately after the game so they know to expect your report.
- Many (most, all?) of us think we can officiate at the World Cup. However, EVERY game deserves a good referee. I know many (most, all?) of us want the upper-level games every week. That is simply not possible. Each week there are more referees in our Association that can manage these games very well than there are games at this level. As members of the Association, we all need to be willing to officiate the lower-level games also. Try them, you may just have fun!

Futsal Rules

The updated LA Galaxy youth and adult futsal rules are now available on our website at www.sbsra.org/competitions/futsal. There are some significant changes for this season.

New Member Incentive Program

Remember, we have a New Member Incentive program whereby you can enjoy a year's membership with no dues payable for any new member you recruit when they pay for their second year of membership. We are anticipating a very busy fall season. With huge demand (of many games) we need additional supply (of referees).

We created a flyer (<https://sbsra.org/ref-recruiting-poster>) for us to hand out at the fields. These are also available on our website. Print them out, insert your information at the bottom of the flyer (so you get credit from the Association) and take them with you to the fields to hand out.

Cal South Female Referee Initiative

At the time that Cal South's Referee Committee created its "Female Development Initiative," which is dedicated to the female referee who is seeking support or to advance her referee license, approximately 10% the SBSRA membership was comprised of female referees. Given that approximately 50% of our games are girls' games, this provides us with an opportunity for significant growth in numbers.

With this program being focused on female referees, Cal South is hosting a series of instruction dedicated to females in the referee community via Zoom (and some in person), along with mentoring sessions during State/National cup and other local tournaments.

Their hope is that the participants in the program will share with their association what they have learned and inspire not only other female referees, but everyone in their association.

So, female members in our association (of all ages and experience levels), please be aware of the [program application form link](#).



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With your support, Cal South feels they will have the best female referee program in the nation. If you have any questions, please contact Penny Rehm (prehm@calsouth.com) or (951) 315 5023.

Professionalism

Match Reports

Our referee duties do not end when we blow the final whistle. We usually need to complete a match report. This is mostly in the form of a printed document provided by team managers or coaches. We need to be aware of the different league requirements and ensure we comply with them.

In particular:

- In cases which require misconduct reports, members are reminded to send the misconduct reports to our Member-at-Large and to the applicable assignor and **not to any leagues**.

For more details about the completion of any match reports and the reporting requirements for our leagues, please visit our Competitions page at <https://sbsra.org/competitions>.

While the importance of every one of these reports cannot be emphasized strongly enough, we have experienced another level of seriousness for their proper completion recently. Following an adult game, a sent off player returned after the game and struck an opponent. The referee on the game was contacted by a police detective who requested “any information regarding the involved players, including any notes or any US Soccer Federation Referee Reports.”

Availability and Blocks

All members have an obligation to minimize the number of times we decline games after we are assigned.

As independent contractors, we are all entitled to accept assignments wherever we can get them. However, in fairness to all assignors, Gabriel and Veto here, and others elsewhere, we are all requested to block the days that we are unavailable to the applicable assignor(s) ahead of time.

Choosing which association/league/organization we want to work for on specific days is perfectly fine. However, waiting to see which games you are assigned and then declining the less favorable ones is simply **not acceptable** to any of the assignors.

The extra work it creates for the assignor is more than most of us can imagine. **Please block ahead of time!**

Honesty

Our assignors’ jobs are complex, and they spend a significant amount of time assigning games each week. Periodically, we have members turning back games (declining after receiving the assignment) for various reasons. A common reason is games from another assignor that the member prefers. In many of



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these cases, we learn about the other assignments and know that any reason given for turning back our association's games is not the truth!

This is not acceptable. Please pick up the phone and call the assignor to discuss your situation. They will work with you to make you happy and will not deny you the opportunity to referee a "better game," if possible.

Supplemental Reports

Due to ongoing challenges, we continue to provide the following guidance for all members:

Please be reminded that whenever we have serious situations, a supplemental report is required:

- The **USSF Supplemental Referee Report form (both pages)**, on the SBSRA website, must be used and refer to the **IFAB LOTG** for **proper terminology** to use,
- The report is required to be prepared ASAP, **within 24 hours** for **all serious situations**, including:
 - **Red cards** (for all reasons prescribed by IFAB including a second caution);
 - **Serious injuries** (paramedics called, player taken to emergency room/hospital), attended to by the trainer; or,
 - **Game terminations**, etc.,
- Take a **copy of the Match Report** to assist you with preparing the USSF Supplemental Referee Report,
- Use **simple language** and include the **facts of the incident** only:
 - **When** – date and time, point in the match;
 - **Where** – venue and specific location on the field;
 - **Who** was involved? The player's name, number and team; and,
 - **What** happened? Don't speculate on what caused it, just note what you saw.

Note, there is no "**Why**." It is not our job to speculate on why someone did what they did, and we should not include a diagnosis of the injury, even if we have the ability to do so.

- **Do not use abbreviations**, only use **language in the Laws of the Game** to describe the applicable misconduct.
- **Call the Assignor**, after any game that requires a supplemental report, so he is informed when the league calls him and **send a text to the Member-At-Large (MAL)** to alert him a report is coming.
- **Submit the supplemental report** to our MAL and the applicable Assignor (who assigned the game) who will review the report and possibly suggest edits. **Referees - do not submit supplemental reports directly to any league.**
- Following submission of the incident report to the MAL, please call him/her to ensure it has been received if you have not received an **acknowledgement of receipt within 2 hours**.
- **Following review and approval** of the report by the MAL and Assignor, the **Assignor submits the final report** to the applicable league.
- **If you have kept ID cards** (which is only required in limited cases for red cards), the card(s), together with copies of the match report and supplemental report must be sent to the applicable league administrator **by the end of the first business day (likely Monday)** following the game.
- The **importance of this process** cannot be stressed strongly enough! These reports are really needed by the leagues and everything we do needs to **reflect on our professionalism** as individuals and as a referee association.



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At the July 2023 Membership Meeting, we went through two supplemental reports – the original draft submitted, and the final report sent to the league after edits were made with the assistance of certain Board Members. To assist members further, we have added these sample reports to our website (<https://sbsra.org/laws/>) – one how not to do it and one which is more concise but contains all of the necessary information that we should provide most leagues. If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact our Member-at-Large who would be happy to spend time with you to assist with this very important function.

Training Opportunities

The following training opportunities are coming up and all members are encouraged to attend as many of these as you are able.

You may sign up at any time for all future Cal South courses, at no cost, at <https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>

CORE Training at North High

The next CORE training session at North High is scheduled for 7:00pm on January 7, 2025, in the cafeteria (indoor only).

What is CORE?

Center of Referee Education (CORE) is a program established by the Cal South State Referee Committee (SRC). It is open to all USSF certified referees. It primarily consists of lectured meetings for referees who are ambitious to rise to the elite level of Cal South refereeing or just want to be better on the field.

Referees attending this event are expected to come prepared with items customarily taken to the field on match days (i.e., whistle, cards, flags) as well as material for classroom (i.e., current IFAB Laws of the Game, Considerations for Match Analysis, paper and pen).

While these trainings are for referee self-development, please note that Regional or Grassroots Elite certification or recertification require referees to attend at least 5 CORE trainings per year. The same requirement applies to instructors and assessors.

In addition, to become a full member of SBSRA, all members are required to attend one CORE training to be exposed to this wonderful program and opportunity to enhance one's skills and learning.

Novice Referee Training at North High

Do you want a year's **free membership dues** of SBSRA? Do you know of anyone who wants to be a referee? Please let them know of the next opportunity to attend Cal South's next New Referee Training at North High School at the same time as the CORE training each month.



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Ensure they include your name on their SBSRA New Member Application, which you can download from <https://sbsra.org/association/nma/> so you can benefit from our New Member Incentive (NMI) program.

New SBSRA Member Training

This training is required for all new SBSRA members to become full members of our association. All referees, both those new to refereeing and those with prior referee experience are required to attend so we can share all the details of how to maximize your enjoyment and experience as a referee in **our organization**. The next New Member Training will be in **2025**.

In addition, under the leadership of our assignor, Gabriel, we launched a new referees' training program to provide all new members with the knowledge and confidence to begin their refereeing career. The vast majority of new members may not be assigned to games until they have completed this training.

Cal South Monthly In-Service Webinar

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR OR TO VIEW THESE WEBINARS](#)

Please be reminded that after viewing the presentation, live or recorded, one must take the Review (Quiz) to receive In-Service Training credit.

Other Cal South Offerings

Candidates need to register for selected courses on the Cal South Referee Website under the "Classes & Clinics offered" tab:

(<https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>).

Two Person (Whistle) Referee System

IFAB and USSF prohibit the use of the two-person referee system. While many of us may use this system for high school and middle school games, it may not be used in any USSF-sanctioned games that we do. If you have any doubt, please **DO NOT USE THE TWO-PERSON REFEREE SYSTEM** unless you have been assigned by one of our Assignors to be on a two-person referee crew.

Conversely, if you have been assigned as a **TWO-PERSON REFEREE CREW** for **non-USSF-sanctioned games**, please honor the assignment regardless of what your assigned partner may say. If there is an issue, please contact the appropriate assignor, Gabriel for weekend games and Veto for weekday games.

Monthly Referee Quick Tip

As most comedians tell us "It's all about timing!"

- Preset your count-down timer to the match duration time before the game (let's avoid the awkward referee fiddling with their watches when all players are ready to start),
- Just prior to the kickoff, all members of the referee team, including the referee should start their timer,



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- The number of seconds before the ball is kicked and when the timer was started is usually less than five seconds,
 - This way, instead of looking at our watches, we will have all eyes on the game and be ready for anything that may occur in those first few seconds.
 - **Bad stuff can happen at any time – be ready!**

Do you have a quick tip to share? If so, please email it to president@sbsra.org.

From the Office of the Treasurer

Please be reminded:

- **Home/Mailing Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address while you make the change in Arbiter,
- **Checks** – Please cash these in a timely manner,
- **Forfeits** - Notify the applicable Assignor and the Treasurer within 24 hours of forfeited games. This way we can ensure the applicable league is billed for the ref fees that would have been paid on the field and that the referees are paid the fees owed to them,
- **W-9 form** – Every member is required by Federal law to provide a W-9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>) to the Treasurer. We are required to keep these forms for at least 7 years after you cease to be a member. Simply providing your SSN is not sufficient. Please cooperate so as not to place your Treasurer and the Association in jeopardy.

Referee Match Fees

The latest updated referee fee schedules are posted on our website at <https://sbsra.org/game-fees/>. It is a best practice to:

- 1) Print a copy to have with you at games, in case there is a dispute with team managers and/or coaches, and
- 2) Visit the website periodically to check for updates,

Monthly Membership Meetings

To maintain our high standards of refereeing, the Association provides two vehicles to share information and instruction with our members – this *Flag & Whistle* monthly newsletter and our monthly membership meetings. Please try to attend the meeting and read the newsletter every month - this is how we share important information with all of our members.

Approval of Minutes

Included below are the General Membership Meeting Minutes for the most recent meeting for approval by the Membership at our next meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next Monthly Membership Meeting is on **Tuesday, November 26, 2024, starting at 7:03pm** at North High School **in the cafeteria**. We look forward to seeing you there!



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Some Words of Wisdom

Knowledge comes from experience - "Information is not knowledge; the only source of knowledge is experience." **Albert Einstein**

"A lifetime isn't as long as you think" **Warren Buffet**

"Stay positive, work hard and make it happen!" **Unknown but sounds good eh?**

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity!" **Lucius Annaeus Seneca** (1 BC – 65 AD)



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SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2024

1. Call to order at 7:04pm
2. Approval of September 2024 Meeting Minutes, motion by Steve Resnick, seconded by Scott Jarus, approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training:
 - a) Jorge Reyes (Former FIFA Referee) – Game Management, Part 1 of 2 (the Referee) Points of emphasis:
 - i. Be a team!
 - ii. Success must be worked towards and we need to learn from failures.
 - iii. The rookie referee knows the LOTG, the experienced referee knows the exceptions.
 - iv. Game management includes:
 - Match Control
 - Understand the game such as team tactics and atmosphere
 - Have clear priorities (know the role you are assigned)
 - Restart procedures
 - Use your personality – be yourself
 - Correct use of your tools (signals-words-whistle-cards-flags).
 - v. Player management is:
 - Respect (mutual)
 - Body language
 - Communication
 - Prevention
 - Handling dissent/confrontation/USB quickly and assertively
 - Encouraging fair play.
 - vi. Hot spots and critical moments:
 - Penalty area
 - Near players benches
 - Areas for tactical fouls
 - Where to call/not call advantage
 - vii. Critical incidents
 - Goalkeeper challenges
 - Late contact
 - Head injury.
 - viii. Advantage – the 4 “P”s
 - Possession
 - Potential for attack
 - Proximity to goal
 - Personnel – are other defenders nearby?
 - ix. Free kick management
 - Quick free quicks



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- Manage interference – Player moves towards the ball, caution, retake if necessary
 - Intercepting – if defending player moves laterally, allow play to continue
 - If Referee needs to get involved, restart becomes ceremonial
- x. Ceremonial Free Kicks
- Referee is required to enforce the distance after:
 - Yellow or Red card
 - On-field treatment after injury
 - Substitution
 - Request from attackers
 - For game control
- xi. Communication skills:
- Verbal
 - Non-verbal
 - Body language
 - Facial expression
 - Active listening
 - Humor
 - Empathy
 - Eye contact
 - Respect
 - Persuasion
 - Credibility
- b) Gabriel Goldsman discussed referee angles and decision making. He spoke about two recent on-field incidents our members experienced
- i. Referees made an error on LOTG on a corner kick (and a goal was taken away) when the ball went back to the corner kicker from an opponent and an incorrect offside call was made
 - ii. We were sent a video clip showing a player striking an opponent who was being held and the strike was not immediately obvious in the video. Discussion followed on some possible ways to deal with situations like that.
4. LA Galaxy Fantasy Camp – Nouredine Miloud: Spoke about his three-day camp which was a “player on the team” experience.
5. Treasurer’s Report:
- a) Financial Statements for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2024 – very few unbilled receivables, receivables and payables are almost the same.
 - b) Address Changes – Please send directly to Bruce
 - c) Checks for September games – Being distributed
6. President’s Report
- a) Season Update:
 - i. Game Count (2023 in parentheses):
 - September - 975 (1,250)
 - October - 1,033 (1,289)
- Decrease primarily due to:
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- Futsal - 352
 - Zog - 113
 - ii. Most games by League:
 - SOCAL - 718 (27%)
 - SBS 7v7 - 482 (18%)
 - Coast Soccer League - 342 (13%)
 - LA Galaxy Futsal - 192 (7%)
- Noteworthy – EA – 170 (6%) – we have increased the number of clubs for whom we assign
- b) Board Meeting – October 2024 – we did not have a quorum but all matters discussed are noted during the course of this meeting
 - c) The following new members stood up and introduced themselves: Bryan Alvarez, Victor Bowman-Rivera
 - d) By-Law Amendments – none were presented in the prior month, therefore as required by the by-laws, there are none for consideration by the membership
 - e) USSF Registration renewals – as we approach the end of the year, please be reminded to complete your renewals ASAP. Assignors will not assign anyone beyond January 1 if you are not on the 2025 ROL
6. Vice President’s Report – Steve Morgan was not present
- a) JJ reminded members to renew their SafeSport certifications as soon as possible to avoid being removed from the ROL.
7. Secretary’s Report
- a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members - 128
 - ii. Probationary Members - 21
8. Assignor’s Report:
- a) Game Expectations for the Next Few Weeks – not much happening as the end of the calendar year approaches but members need to update their blocks. Members need to be realistic about their abilities and fitness levels when evaluating their match assignments. We are receiving more and more feedback about referees who have not kept up with play and/or have not been in close enough proximity to make (and sell) their calls
 - b) CORE Training – resumes in January 2025.
9. Member-At-Large Report
- a) Supplemental Reports – reports are required for all red cards (including second cautions), injuries and serious incidents (primarily game terminations).
10. Meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.